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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

Public Health Department,
White Hall,
Hemsworth.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I present to you my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1945.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health, which states that owing to disorganisation caused by the War only interim reports are required containing essential matters.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the Hemsworth Urban District consists, as formerly, of 4,163 acres, comprising the communities of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam.

The Rateable Value is £51,619, and the sum represented by a penny rate equals £197. 18. 3.

The chief industry in the area is Coal Mining and its allied trades, the remaining portion of the district being devoted to agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births.....	162	148	310
Legitimate.....	149	137	286
Illegitimate.....	13	11	24
Still Births (all legitimate)....	1	3	4
Deaths under 1 year of age.....	15	7	22
Legitimate.....	14	7	21
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year to receive or require comment.

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 169 and the causes of death were as follows :-

	Males	Females	Total
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	-	1
Influenza.....	3	-	3
Measles.....	-	1	1
Acute Infective Encephalitis.....	-	-	-
Cancer (all sites).....	20	7	27
Diabetes.....	-	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis....	10	10	20
Heart Disease.....	12	15	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System...	1	2	3
Bronchitis.....	10	4	14
Pneumonia.....	4	6	10
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
Appendicitis.....	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1	2	3
Other digestive diseases.....	2	3	5
Nephritis.....	2	2	4
Puerperal & Post abortive sepsis.....	-	2	2
Other maternal causes.....	-	1	1
Premature Birth.....	2	1	3
Congenital & other Infantile diseases..	6	-	6
Suicide.....	1	-	1
Road Traffic accidents.....	1	1	2
Other violent causes.....	2	-	2
All other causes.....	11	13	24

2. Ambulance.

Facilities are adequate and consist of a public ambulance supplied by the local authority and an arrangement to supplement this with taxis where expedient. The ambulance being a standard war-time truck chassis with suitable body, and the only type available when purchased, is not satisfactory. A Committee has been formed, and the improvement of the present vehicle and its replacement as soon as suitable types come on the market is under consideration.

In addition to the above facilities, an infectious diseases ambulance is provided for all infectious cases by the Hemsworth and Wombwell Joint Hospital Committee, and an ambulance is provided by the local Colliery Companies for their own accident cases.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Scabies. This centre continues to do good work and is undoubtedly responsible for the fact that Scabies is not now epidemic in the district, as it was before the opening of the centre. New and well equipped premises have been found in Rotherham Road, and the centre is functioning there very efficiently.

	Male	Female	Cildren under 16
Cases treated during the year	42	67	256

An increase of 44 cases on last year's total.

No. of treatments - 733

Clinics.

Ante-natal and Child Welfare Clinics are maintained in Hemsworth and Fitzwilliam by the West Riding County Council. The Medical Officers are very ably assisted at these clinics by the Health Visitors, who are also County Council officers, and contribute largely to the health and welfare of the district by their work and co-operation with the doctors.

The Child Welfare and Antenatal Clinics at Fitzwilliam are in the care respectively of Dr. R.H. Mumford and myself. At Hemsworth, Child Welfare and Antenatal Clinics, also a "Sunray" clinic, are under the supervision of Dr. Smith, a West Riding County Council Medical Officer.

I would like again to mention and express my gratitude to the voluntary workers who so kindly give of their time and contribute so largely to the smooth running efficiency of the clinics.

The attendance at these clinics were as follows :-

Hemsworth.

72 Expectant Mothers made 301 attendances at 23 sessions.
301 Children under 5 made 1989 attendances at 46 sessions.

Fitzwilliam.

120 Expectant Mothers made 785 attendances at 45 sessions.
279 Children under 5 made 2196 attendances at 45 sessions.

These figures speak for themselves, and demonstrate the high standard of care which is being taken of the expectant mothers and their children by the Nursing and Medical services in the area. The infant mortality compares favourably with the figures for the country average.

4. Hospitals - Public and Voluntary. None in district.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified and dealt with during 1945 was 56 as against 91 for the previous year. They were divided as follows :-

	1945	1944
Scarlet Fever.....	39	42
Diphtheria.....	17	49

Of the number of Diphtheria cases notified none had been immunised. It should be noticed that the incidence of cases of Diphtheria has decreased by 66%, largely due to immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

From the record submitted by the Health Visitors, it is found that the following number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year :-

	1945	1944	1943
Under 5 years.....	97	114	211
5 to 15 years.....	10	29	653

Venereal Disease.

In connection with the campaign against Venereal Disease, posters have been displayed in Public Lavatories and other suitable sites, warning persons against the risk of infection, and also giving the address of centres where treatment is available if the disease is contracted. So far as I am aware, the incidence of Venereal Disease in the district is not high.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

These are fully discussed in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which I endorse and recommend for your consideration.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Dysentery	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Scarlet Fever	38	38	-
Diphtheria	17	17	-
Pneumonia	66	-	-
Erysepelas	15	-	-
Measles	598	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-

Tuberculosis.

	Resp. M.	Resp. F.	Non-Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year of age	-	-	-	-
1 year - 5 years	-	-	-	1
5 " - 15 "	-	-	1	1
15 - 25 "	-	2	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	2	-	-
35 - 45 "	2	1	1	-
45 - 55 "	2	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	1	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1945, were as follows :-

Pulmonary. M.	Pulmonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.
124	104	26	24

The number on the Register at 31st December, 1944 :-

Pulomonary. M.	Pulomonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.
123	102	27	26

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Officials of the Council, who, in addition to their many other duties, have been so helpful and courteous to me in the performance of my duties.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. S. LAURIE. Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
U.D.C. Offices,
White Hall,
Hemsworth.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945 The Report being drawn up in accordance with circular 28/46 issued by the Ministry of Health.

There are three items which have occurred during the year to which I wish to call your attention. The first being the prolonged frost which occurred in the early part of the year. The second being Dr. Taylor's retirement from private practice which caused him to retire as Medical Officer of Health on the 30th April, and my serious illness which took place in mid June and which necessitated my being absent from duty for over six weeks.

With respect to the first matter I wish to report that owing to the severe frost thousands of burst water-pipes occurred when the thaw took place, and as a consequence the department was overwhelmed with complaints from persons suffering from this cause. With regard to the property owned by the Colliery Company - these matters were dealt with expeditiously by their own staff and so far as your own houses were concerned - after some considerable trouble it was possible to obtain the services of four plumbers from Bradford to assist in the repairing of burst pipes. Unfortunately the services of these men could only be obtained for three weeks when they were recalled to Bradford by their employers, which left the remainder of the burst pipes to be dealt with by the two resident plumbers in your district. Owing to the shortage of staff these bursts were not completely dealt with until the latter part of the year and no blame can be attached to owners or the plumbers for this delay, the outstanding fact being that there are not sufficient skilled plumbers in this area to cope with the amount of work which was caused by the severe frost.

With respect to the second point (Dr. Taylor's resignation) I should like to pay a tribute to the very cordial way in which Dr. Taylor has, during many years as Medical Officer of Health, co-operated with me in all spheres of my work. Dr. Laurie, one of his partners, was appointed M.O.H. in the place of Dr. Taylor.

Regarding my illness I wish to pay tribute and express thanks to the members of the staff and also the Sanitary Inspectors of the R.D.C. who carried out meat inspection on my behalf during my absence from duty and to state that everything possible was done during my absence to carry out essential work which was found necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of zymotic diseases which were reported during the year was 58 as against 99 in the year 1944. In connection with this matter 61 rooms were disinfected after the cases where removed to the Isolation Hospital. Disinfection is also carried out after the removal to Sanatoria or the death of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

The housing situation is, in my opinion, worse now than at the time of my last report. No new houses have been built and no

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houses have been closed which were the subject of a report which I presented prior to the outbreak of War. The housing shortage is much more acute than formerly, especially now that men are being demobilised and are returned to civil life and are anxious to settle down in homes of their own. Plans have been submitted for houses in various parts of your township and late in December commencement was made on 24 bungalows on land adjoining the Tombridge Crescent Housing Estate at Kinsley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory so far as quality is concerned, but many complaints have been received with regard to the inadequacy of water at the Fitzwilliam part of your area. This matter has been the subject of consideration by your authority and the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee has now appointed an engineer to go fully into the matter and to make a report thereon.

It will be obvious that this matter should not be delayed any longer than is necessary as if new houses are to be built it is essentialthat an adequate supply of water should be provided.

The officials of the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee periodically take samples of water for both bacteriological and chemical examination, and during the year these have been reported upon as being satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The only change in the closet accommodation in your area is the addition of a W.C. which was provided for employees of a local Grocer, otherwise, the position is as previously reported, and is as follows:-

Privies.	50
Pail and Tub closets.	6
Waste water closets.	6
Water closets.	3039

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The arrangements which hitherto have prevailed in the area are still being carried on, the dry ashes being removed each week from each house and taken to the Council's rubbish tip which is under the system of controlled tipping. The privies are emptied at frequent intervals and this matter is also taken to the tip.

Again great difficulty has been experienced in replacing worn out dustbins. In order to assist in this direction I have, during the year, been able to purchase 100 dustbins which have been sold to private owners to replace worn out ones.

During the year the rubbish tip was found to be on fire, this being caused by persons trespassing on the tip after the staff have left. This fire caused considerable work to this department, and after a great deal of trouble was finally put out by sealing off with loads of quarry dust. The total number of loads of dry ashes removed during the year was 2735, and the total cost of the whole service was £2831, which includes the removal of night-soil.

CESSPOOLS.

The cesspools in your area are the same in number as given in my previous report and are emptied at frequent intervals by the

Council's cesspool emptier and the contents are deposited in the Council's sewer at the nearest point available to the Hemsworth Sewage Works.

SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage of all kinds has been carried out during the year and with regard to the collection of kitchen waste the Compulsory Order was lifted in the latter part of the year. This collection of kitchen waste has not been satisfactory, in my opinion, since its inauguration, the chief reason being the number of licences issued to private collectors by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the fact that persons who keep less than four pigs can collect kitchen waste without having a licence. One other fact against the collection of kitchen waste is the interference by persons who on frequent occasions have abstracted the waste which has been placed in the communal bins, and though steps have been taken on all occasions to trace the persons concerned these steps have not been successful.

The return for the amount of salvage collected from April, 1945, to 31st March, 1946, is as follows:-

	tons	cwt	qr	lbs	£	s	d
Paper	33	9	-	7	212	19	2
Clean Paper		12	1	14	6	8	5
Rags	1	3	-	20	16	19	5
Jars and Bottles.					3	12	2
Bones.	1	15	1	14	9	4	3
Kitchen Waste.	2	1	-	-	3	1	6
Lead			2	-		8	-
Unbaled tins.	1	10	-	-	1	10	-
	40	11	1	27	254	2	11

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging House now in your area and during the year this has been visited 28 times and has always been found to be in a satisfactory condition. During the year a bath has been installed at this lodging house for the use of the persons who stay therein and this no doubt will be a boon to the persons concerned.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The inspection of these premises is carried out at frequent intervals. During no time has there been any reason for a report to be submitted to you.

RAT INFESTATION.

The instructions of the Ministry of Food in respect of this matter have been carried out during the year and the whole of the sewers in your area have been pre-baited and then baited with poison twice during the year, i.e. April and November. The results have been found to be satisfactory and a report has been submitted to the Director of Rat Infestation. The Sewage Works in your area and the Council's rubbish tip have also been baited with poison during the month of November and the results obtained have been entirely satisfactory and as a consequence no further report of rats having been seen has been received.

HOUSING.

130 houses have been inspected under the Housing Act, 1936, and of these 64 were found to be in need of further attention.

The procedure is that in the first instance a Preliminary Notice is served upon the owner, and generally it is found that the work is carried out after the service of this notice. In three instances, however, it was found necessary to serve Statutory Notice in order to get the work carried out and of these two were not completed at the end of the year and the time allowed had not then expired.

The problem of getting housing repairs carried out is still very difficult owing to shortage of skilled labour and very often, even when orders have been given to builders or contractors concerned, delay occurs before the work is carried out owing to this fact. With the launching of a housing programme this problem may be intensified as I am quite satisfied that without an influx of skilled workmen it will not be possible to carry out necessary repairs and at the same time carry on with the building of new houses. One other matter in this connection is the difficulty of obtaining material, and notwithstanding all efforts to obtain materials such as furnace pans, spouting, etc., the difficulty still remains.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The only slaughterhouse in use in your area is that which is under the direction of the Ministry of Food, and the cattle which are slaughtered there are distributed not only in your area but in the area of the Hemsworth Rural and Royston Urban Districts. The work of supervision is carried out by myself and one of the Rural District Council's Sanitary Inspectors, each taking on alternative week.

In addition to the pigs slaughtered in this slaughterhouse I have visited and inspected 23 which were killed by private owners on places other than the slaughterhouse. Again I would call attention to the fact that, in my opinion, these pigs should be taken to the slaughterhouse in order that they may be slaughtered under suitable conditions. Pigs killed in allotments and back yards etc., for private persons are not killed and dressed under suitable conditions, and in addition, the work of supervision takes up a great deal more time than would be necessary if they were slaughtered in the slaughterhouse. Wherever possible, pigs for private owners are inspected by me when notification has been received.

The following is a list of meat which has been condemned in the slaughterhouse during the year under review:-

8 whole beasts.
3 " pigs.
8 " sheep.
148 whole beast livers and 307 parts.
147 " sheep plucks.
4 pigs' heads.
16 beasts' udders.
265 lbs meat.
102 tins canned meat (6 lbs each).
112 lbs Fish.
45½lbs Bacon.
84 lbs Yeast.
48½lbs Cheese.
767 Eggs.

All meat condemned is taken away by the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food and disposed of under their jurisdiction. The number of visits which were paid to the slaughterhouse during the year was 184.

FARMS AND PRODUCERS OF MILK.

During the year 29 visits have been paid to farms where milk is produced and one additional person has been registered during the year as a milk producer. There is, as yet, only one person in your area who is producing anything but the ordinary milk and that is one person who is licensed as an Accredited producer. The inspection of cattle is under the Ministry of Agriculture and I understand that their veterinary surgeons make periodical inspections of the dairy cattle. However, I have no official information on this subject, and therefore, cannot give any information as to the result of their inspections.

SAMPLING OF MILK FOR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

The sampling of milk for the Ministry of Agriculture has been carried out throughout the year with the exception of the period during which I was off duty through illness. These samples are taken on alternate weeks and a sample is taken from each producer in the area. The samples are taken for the purpose of ascertaining the keeping quality of the milk, and during the year 210 samples were taken.

NUISANCES.

363 inspections were made for the detection and removal of nuisance and as a result 143 Informal Notices were served dealing with nuisances. In most cases the work specified in the Preliminary Notice is carried out but in six cases it has been found necessary to serve Statutory Notices before the nuisances were abated.

Many of the remarks made with respect to housing repairs can be made with respect to the abatement of nuisances as it is not always possible to get the nuisance abated quickly owing to insufficient number of skilled operatives.

LITIGATION.

In the latter part of the year I was requested by the N.S.P.C.C. to give evidence against a householder in your area for neglect of his children. The result of this case was that the defendant was committed to six months imprisonment.

Herewith I give a list of inspections made by me during the year:-

Rooms disinfected.....	68
Informal Notices served (for nuisances).....	143
Informal Notices served (for housing).....	50
Statutory Notices (Sec. 93 P.H.A., 1936).....	6
Statutory Notices (Sec. 75 P.H.A., 1936).....	3
Statutory Notices (Sec. 9 H.A.,1936).....	3

Visits.

To infectious disease and in connection therewith.....	61
" inspection for nuisances.....	363
" re-visits and work in hand.....	332
" Ministry of Food slaughterhouse.....	184
" Inspection of houses.....	130
" Scavenging and Salvage matters.....	212
" Common Lodging Houses.....	28
" Taking Milk Samples (M.of A).....	210
" Farms.....	29
" Private Pig Killing.....	23

To Inspection of Meat..... 8
" Rubbish tip..... 24
" Miscellaneous matters..... 294

In conclusion I would again like to express to the members of the Council and my fellow colleagues my sincere thanks for the assistance which I have received during the year in the carrying out of my duties and especially during the period I was off duty through illness.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

S. Fox,

Sanitary Inspector.